(SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) The Planning Commission has adopted per capita consumption expenditure as the yard stick to assess a person living below the poverty line. The per capita consumption norm has been fixed at Rs. 49.09 per month in rural areas and Rs. 56.64 per month in urban areas at 1973-74 prices at national level corresponding to a basket of goods and services anchored on a norm of per capita daily calorie requirement of 24000 kcal in rural areas and 2100 kcal in urban areas. The State-specific poverty lines are drived from the national level poverty lines, using State-specific price indices and inter-state price differentials. The national poverty line at 1999-2000 prices is Rs. 327.56 per capita per month in rural areas and Rs. 454.11 per month in urban areas.

(b) to (d) The Planning Commission estimates poverty at National and State level from the large sample surveys on household consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five years. The latest such survey was conducted in 1999-2000 (NSS 55th Round). As such, the estimate of persons living below the poverty line is not available on an annual basis. The poverty ratios estimated from the last three large survey data for the years 1987-88,1993-94 and 1999-2000 given below shows that the percentage of persons living below poverty line in the country has come down from-38.9% in 1987-88 to 26.1% in 1999-2000.

Percentage and Number of Poor

Year	Poverty Ratio(%) Rural			Number of Poor (million) Rural		
	Urban	Total			Urban	Total
1987-88 1993-	39.1	38.2	38.9	231.9	75.2	307.1
94 1999-2000	37.3	32.4	36.0	244.0	76.3	320.3
	27.1	23.6	26.1	193.2	67.0	260.2

National Human Development Report

1066. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have examined the Planning Commission's National Human Development Report, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to address the developmental activities in the different States or equal development in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The Planning Commission had prepared the National Human Development Report (NHDR) 2001 which was released in March, 2002. The Human Development Index for each State has been worked out based on health, education and economic indicators, which are widely recognized as the most important components of total human development. The NHDR has also estimated two deprivational indices namely Human Poverty Index (HPI) and the Gender Equality Index (GEI) for the States based on appropriate indicators in the above mentioned three dimensions of human development namely educational, health and economic dimensions.

(c) These concerns have been given a place of prominence in the Tenth Five Year Plan. Monitorable targets covering social, economic and environmental dimensions of human development have also been set out for the Tenth and subsequent plans. The Government, both in the Centre and in the States, have initiated a number of programmes to improve the health and educational status of the people, as also to provide opportunities for employment and enhanced incomes.

In order to emphasis the importance of ensuring a balanced development for all States, the Tenth Plan includes a State-wise breakup of the broad developmental targets, including targets for growth rates and social development, which are consistent with the national targets. These State specific targets take into account the needs, potentialities and constraints present in each State and the scope for improvement in their performance, given these constraints.

Role of NGOs in Executing Project

1067. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that continued failure of the State agencies in spending allocations and involving people in implementation of welfare programmes, his Ministry now scripted a large role for Non-Governmental